

# UCSF Helicopter Flight Tests Noise

By Kerry Fleisher

At 8:30 a.m. on a Sunday late last month, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Mission Bay Medical Center conducted their much-anticipated helicopter demonstration flight. The flight enabled neighbors concerned about the noise from a proposed helipad at 16th and Third streets to record sound levels. An associated noise analysis will be included in the helipad's environmental impact report (EIR), which is scheduled to be issued sometime next year.

REACH Air Medical Services Director of Aviation Paul Langlois simulated the take-off and landing of three possible flight paths over the yet-to-be built UCSF medical building. Under the primary flight path the helicopter arrived from the east and departed west; under the alternative flight path the arrival was from the east, after which the helicopter ascended and departed to the west before immediately turning

north; and under the secondary flight path the helicopter arrived from the east, ascended west to Highway 101 before turning toward the bay. The test flight lasted roughly 15 minutes. With the aircraft overhead, media crews scribbled decibel notations from handheld sound meters, volunteers manned official sound monitors from their homes, and residents scattered throughout the area assessed the noise from their doorsteps.

After months of community input, the UCSF Helipad working group, which includes Mission Bay and Potrero Hill residents, aviation consultants, and UCSF staff, chose to launch an Agusta 109 medical helicopter, which is one of three helicopters REACH uses to transport patients to trauma care facilities. Tennessee Street resident Dan Cheetham and UCSF's Transport Team Program Manager Christa Thomas flew with Langlois and his

*continued on page 22*



Photo by Rebecca Sawyer

REACH Air Medical Services lands their Augusta 109 medical helicopter after the UCSF test flight on Sunday, October 21st.

## *Publisher's View* \$1.5 Million Developer Donation Raises Questions

By Steven J. Moss

### *Part One*

A not quite secret agreement to extract mitigation money from a Showplace Square developer has resulted in the establishment of a \$1.5 million community benefits fund, with the monies to be invested to improve the Showplace Square, Potrero Hill, and Central Waterfront neighborhoods. But a lack of transparency in how the funds were negotiated, by whom, and for what purposes has cast a shadow over what some residents consider to be a heroic effort to obtain needed cash for community nonprofits.

The funds, which are being managed by the San Francisco Foundation, were donated by 650 Townsend, LLC as part of a deal to obtain community support to allow the Townsend Street building to convert from exhibition to office space without having to provide the necessary City-mandated parking spaces. Dogpatch resident Joe

Boss spear-headed the negotiations, with support from District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, and in consultation with other community activists. According to both Boss and Tony Kelly, President of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, the San Francisco Planning Department wanted the conversion and parking space variance approved so as to trigger a \$6.5 million developer payment for affordable housing. "[Acting Planning Director] Dean Macris wanted the affordable housing fees," said Boss, "The variance was going to be approved whether we liked it or not."

The owners of 650 Townsend have long wanted to use the building for high-priced office space, despite planning rules that restrict its use to production, distribution and repair. In the late-1990s more than half the building was converted from exhibition space to "business services" under a controversial

*continued on page 20*

## Crosswalk Heroes

By Kerry Fleisher

Sonya steps out of her corner apartment, located at the intersection of Folsom and Cesar Chavez streets, at 8:20 a.m. and proudly escorts her four-year-old son to Leonard R. Flynn Elementary. At 8:30 she marches right back to the same intersection, adjusts her blindingly bright yellow vest, sticks out her stop sign, and proceeds to walk the next 60 to 80 students across the treacherous

intersection, much like a mother duck would guide a brood of little ducklings away from peril.

"Cars speed around here all the time," said Sonya, one of roughly 100 crossing guards employed by the Department of Parking and Traffic to help elementary school children cross busy San Francisco streets. "I'm always, always here to protect them, rain or shine."

*continued on page 24*



Photo by Kerry Fleisher

Crossing Guard Sonya positions herself in the middle of Caesar Chavez Street to help a Leonard Flynn Elementary School student cross the road during a rainstorm.



# Editorials

## New Legislation Provides the Port with the Money it Needs to Make Improvements

By Senator Carole Migden

The new Third Street T-line is another accomplishment in the ongoing revitalization of Third Street and its adjacent streets and neighborhoods. However, when you look past the new development on Third Street towards the bay, too often you get a view of aging infrastructure and buildings in disrepair.



With an eye towards remedying this situation, the Port of San Francisco is undertaking a 10-year, \$1.4 billion capital plan to address the waterfront's need for long-delayed improvement projects. Among the Port's projects is a massive effort to repair 39 pile-supported pier structures, 80 substructures, 245 commercial and industrial buildings, more than three miles of streets and sidewalks, and other assets, such as dry-docks, cargo cranes, and a railroad track.

There is approximately \$513 million in funding for these projects from various sources, including port tenants, the Port's operating budget, port revenue bonds, development projects, and an Infrastructure Financing District bond. Unfortunately, that leaves \$887 million worth of unfunded improvement projects along the waterfront, including plans for the Agriculture Building, Fisherman's Wharf and piers along San Francisco's eastern and southeastern

waterfront.

In order for the Port to complete these overdue projects to revitalize Potrero Hill's backyard, I introduced Senate Bill (SB) 815 earlier this year. Recently signed into law, SB 815 formalizes land-use agreements between the City and County of San Francisco and the California State Lands Commission (SLC).

SB 815 allows the Port to lease or sell specific properties that have been determined to be non-essential for public purposes. This legislation represents a compromise between the Port's needs and the concerns of the surrounding neighborhoods related to overdevelopment. I led negotiations between the SLC, the Port, local community groups and environmental organizations to forge an agreement leading to the legislation.

The largest project in the Port's plan, and one of particular interest to Potrero Hill residents, is Pier 70, the historic shipyard located between 18th and 22nd streets, east of Illinois Street. Estimated to cost approximately \$338 million, the Port's plans include upgrades to salvageable buildings, demolition of unsalvageable buildings, environmental remediation, improvement of street and utility infrastructure, and creation of an open space park area near the water's edge.

The four waterfront lots that will be affected by SB 815 are south of Market Street near AT&T Park, which are currently leased as parking lots. With greater options for development of these lots, the Port will be able to raise the necessary funds to complete their capital plan, benefiting neighborhoods all along San Francisco Bay. I look forward to working with the community as we continue to develop and revitalize San Francisco's waterfront.

*State Senator Carole Migden represents Senate District 3, which includes much of San Francisco, Marin County and a portion of Sonoma County*

## Saving the San Francisco Bay through Community Involvement

By Assemblyman Mark Leno

Seven years ago Crissy Field was transformed from a dilapidated former military site to a robust and inviting natural attraction. Collaboration between the local community, volunteers, and the city, state, and national governments was responsible for this environmental success story.

With this in mind, we know we can do more for San Francisco's too long neglected southeast shore. The southeast waterfront area, stretching from Dogpatch through Bayview-Hunters Point and to Candlestick Point, is among the most polluted coastal areas in the San Francisco Bay Region. In fact, this year Yosemite Slough, which is just north of Candlestick Point, was named one of the Top 10 Bay Trash Hot Spots by the nonprofit organization Save The Bay.

The City's southeastern waterfront contains so much trash that recent clean-up efforts have removed more than 3,500 pounds of debris. While a minor amount of this debris is from marine activities, the majority is from litter dropped on streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and roadsides throughout Southeast San Francisco. Carried away by storm water runoff, neighborhood litter makes its way into the Slough, the Bay and the Pacific Ocean. This debris includes everything from cigarette butts and plastic bottles, to large items like appliances and tires.

The problem is not limited to San Francisco. Marine debris is seriously threatening oceans throughout the planet. Modern litter, largely consisting of food "to go" containers, is commonly made of plastics that don't decompose in the environment. The amount of non-biodegradable litter is increasing with indoor smoking bans, which force smokers outside, the replacement of high recycle value aluminum cans with low-value plastic bottles, and the ongoing popularity of fast food.

Marine debris is not only unsightly but can devastate wildlife and water quality. Automotive chemicals that are washed from roads by rain water cling to plastics, which breakdown over time into smaller pieces that can then be ingested by wildlife. Chemicals that would have been dispersed in water are concentrated into a toxic plastic pill that can not only block digestive tracts of fish, marine mammals, and birds, but also poison the food chain.

What can we as citizens do about this pressing problem? Many of us are volunteering to pick-up trash and refurbish the ecosystem by planting native plants in the Yosemite Slough watershed area. The City and the state must also do their part to protect the Slough and other Bay Area water bodies from continuing contamination by stopping litter before it gets into our fragile water resources. To that end I'm pleased to have authored a new state law, Assembly Bill 1056, which will provide our state's Ocean Protection Council with the scientific capacity to tackle tough issues like marine debris by harnessing \$90 million in Proposition 84 funds.

Please support organizations like the Audubon Society, the Coastal Conservancy, and California State Parks Foundation, who are working to secure funding for wetlands restoration around Yosemite Slough. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Control Board, with pressure from Save The Bay, is currently considering requiring local



governments to remove litter from storm water run-off. I encourage the Board to move forward with these regulations.

We can and must do more to clean-up San Francisco's southeast waterfront and the Bay from a growing amount of toxic, non-biodegradable trash that is contaminating our region's water, wildlife, and ultimately ourselves.

To volunteer for Yosemite Slough clean-up efforts contact: Save The Bay, [www.savesfbay.org](http://www.savesfbay.org), 510.452.9261. If you'd like more information about my work to creating a safer and cleaner environment, and further tips on how to get involved in coastal clean up efforts, contact my San Francisco office: 557.3013, [www.assembly.ca.gov/Leno](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Leno).



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## Citizens do their Best to Help Community

By Tony Kelly

View readers, as well as anyone who's watched or been engaged in Potrero Hill's land use planning battles over the years, know what a struggle it's been to get the City to require new development on the Hill, Showplace Square and Central Waterfront to pay their fair share for the public service needs they induce. Recently I was involved in the neighborhood opposition that led to the creation of the Eastern Neighborhoods Public Benefit Fund, a successful, if ad hoc, effort to obtain development-related mitigation funds. A few responses to some questions that have emerged about the creation of the fund:

- Opposition to the rezoning of a Showplace Square building that ultimately funded the Eastern Neighborhoods Public Benefit Fund came from a wide variety of neighbors and activists on Potrero Hill and throughout the eastern neighborhoods, including members and non-members of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association. As a result, acceptance or rejection of the concept of a locally-controlled public-benefits fund, or any other mitigation measure, was beyond the Boosters' authority to do on their own.

- I contacted every opponent of the building rezoning that I knew, including members of the Boosters and Dogpatch executive committees, members of Plan Potrero Hill, other Hill residents, and activists in other neighborhoods. Every opponent supported the concept of a locally-controlled public benefits fund.

- Time constraints imposed by the Planning Department's calendar prevented a longer process to get neighborhood consensus. Since the opinions collected were unanimous and the opponents were no longer opposed to the rezoning, the application was accepted by the Planning Department and the fund was created.

While the process I outlined above was unfolding, a Planning Department staff person asked me if establishing the Trust Fund set a precedent. I responded that I sure hope so. The precedent I want to set is that all development of Potrero Hill's industrial land, all rezoning and construction and introduction of new uses and new residents, should contribute to the improvement of a new and larger Potrero Hill, with better transit, more open space, better community services and more opportunities for all of our residents, rich and poor.

In the case of this particular project, the Planning Department had the option of delaying the building's rezoning, or completing their long-delayed, long-studied program of public benefits for the eastern neighborhoods. The Department chose to do neither, and their choice forced the creation of a new, private fund to mitigate the effects of this rezoning. Until the Planning Department takes public impacts seriously, these are the kinds of choices that we will be forced to make.

If I'm incorrect on anything that you've read here -- or if anything else on the Hill concerns you -- please feel free to contact me: president@potreroboosters.org; 341.8040.

And here's some news from the battlefield: Supervisor Ammiano's legislation to establish interim controls for the City's eastern neighborhoods, designed to stop Planning Commission approvals of projects that don't address neighborhood impacts, is scheduled to be heard at the Supervisors' Land Use committee on November 5th. I hope Hill residents join me at this important hearing.

*Tony Kelly is the President of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association*

## Letters to the Editor

### Helipad Will be Noisy

Dear Editor:

I live in a loft at Tennessee and Mariposa streets and I was shocked at the incredible noise level created by UCSF helipad test inside our home. All the windows were closed and the sound reverberated off the inside walls. We definitely would not be able to sleep through this noise and I know this will negatively affect our physical and mental health, as well as the resale (if I could sell it at all) value of our loft. I had a certified real estate appraiser with me at 8:30 am and he confirmed this concern. We managed to attend a few early meetings at UCSF despite our incredibly hectic schedules but stopped going after

we heard that the proposed helipad would be moved to the 16th Street side of the Hospital. Naively, we thought this would help. Now that we finally have first-hand knowledge as to the extent of the damaging noise levels of the proposed UCSF helipad, we want to ally ourselves with any group opposed to the helipad's location near the Dogpatch area.

We are not opposed to the helipad location on a pier closer to the bay (after further study), although we realize that UCSF prefers this not to happen.

J Mullineaux

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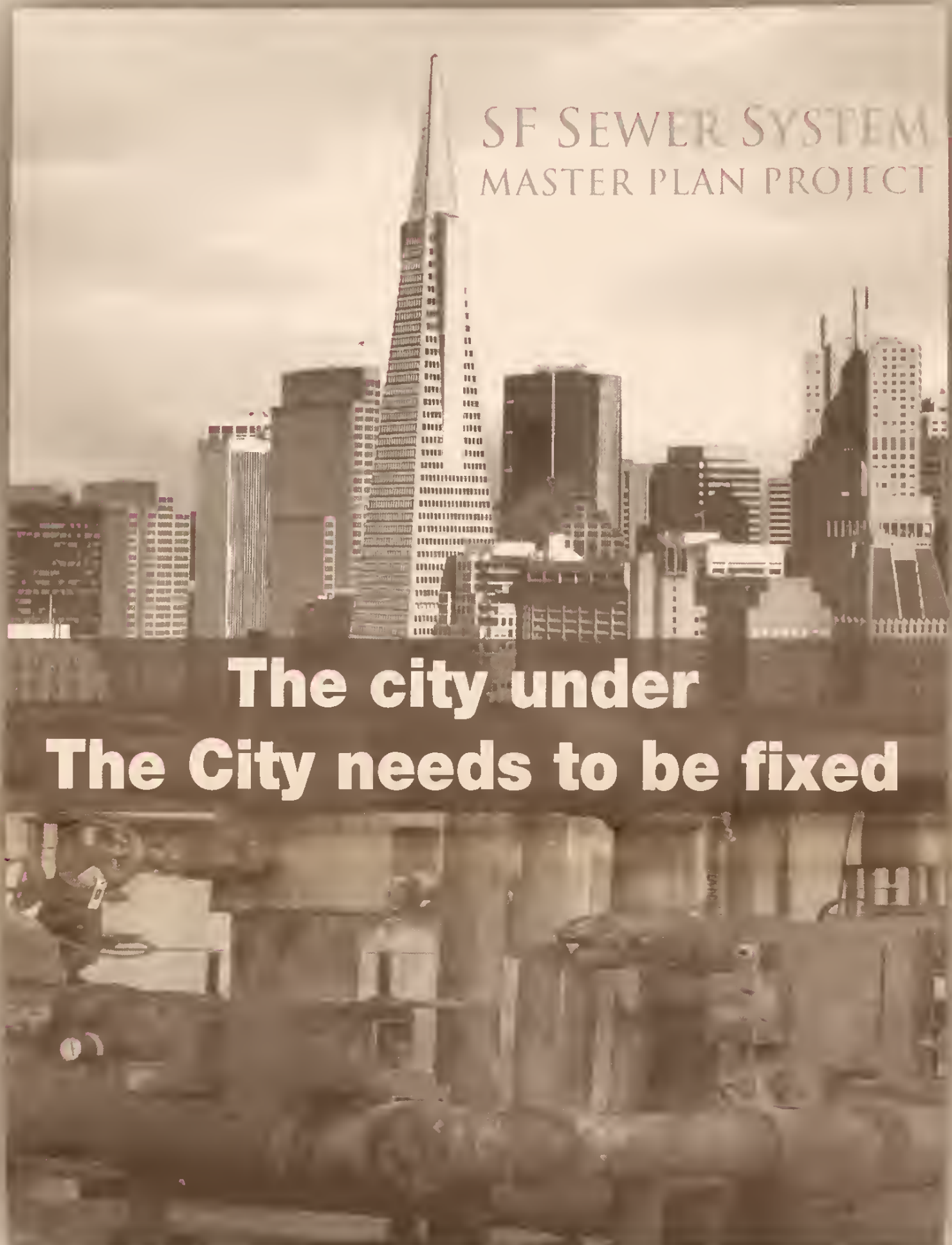
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## Menu Changes

After 25 years of serving Potrero Hillians one of 18th Street's few remaining ma-and-pa restaurants, **San Francisco Bar-B-Que**, has closed its doors. San Francisco Bar-B-Que's retiring owner **Jan Pramuelphol** said she'll miss the "nice and friendly neighbors." The new owner, **Stewart Chen**, is adding the Hill to his burgeoning sushi empire, which includes SkipJack Sushi in Cow Hollow and Amberjack Sushi in Noe Valley and Mill Valley....In other culinary news, **Jocelyn Bulow**, who owns **Chez Papa**, **Chez Maman**, and **Couleur Café**, has sold his Spanish-Moroccan-flavored **Baraka** to Potrero residents **Justin** and **Michelle Hughes**. Fear not Baraka lovers, there's only one major revision in the works: "to make it shine again," according to an in-the-know ex-waiter...one of **Robin Brouillette's** primary financiers has stopped funding the new fashion outlet on 18th Street, next door to community-in-a-cup **Farley's Café**, amidst questions over unaccounted for cash and an ever-fluctuating business model. Sometimes fashion doesn't pay.

## Power Politics

Now that they've received all the necessary government approvals, Trans Bay Cable LLC, a.k.a. **Babcock and Brown**, has moved like a rabbit to start construction on their 53-mile undersea high voltage direct current transmission line from the City of Pittsburg to the Dogpatch neighborhood. B&B has secured financing for the project, and signed a \$150 million construction agreement with Siemens Power and Transmission Distribution, Inc.... Meanwhile, **San Francisco Public Utility Commission's** (SFPUC) more than half-decade long struggle to construct a new power plant in the same neighborhood as a means to replace the existing Mirant-owned facility, continues to move at a turtle's

pace, with SFPUC Commissioner **Richard Sklar** insisting that the City-owned combustion turbines aren't needed to close the existing power plant, and another commissioner calling the situation "vexing." More than a dozen Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero Hill residents representing the **Close-It Coalition** showed-up to oppose the peaker project at last month's **Department of Environment** and SFPUC meetings, though, except for one particularly poetic young woman from the Western Addition, none seemed to really know much about the project. In contrast to the vexed commissioner, **Joe Boss**, who's frequently mentioned in this particular *View* (see below and front page), thinks the situation is quite cut-and-dry, and passed-out fliers to Close-It Coalition members saying "THIS IS THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS..." As the *View* went to press anti-peaker forces were amassing to stop a late-breaking push by Supervisors **Sophie Maxwell** and **Aaron Peskin** to endorse the combustion turbines at a Land Use Committee hearing; as well as a potential final vote at the SFPUC to do the same.

## Heli-Port

Ubiquitous Dogpatch resident, community activist and land use consultant **Joe Boss** is apparently working with the **Port of San Francisco** to develop a helipad that would serve both **San Francisco General Hospital** and the **University of California, San Francisco-Mission Bay (UCSF)**, eliminating the need for two separate sites within a mile of each other. Boss asked UCSF's helicopter test pilot to hover over Port property on 16th Street, but the pilot declined unless the Port formally authorized such activity. Boss then told UCSF's public relations staff that'd he'd get the needed permission in writing from his Port contacts. Is

there anything in the neighborhood Boss isn't involved in? Up until now we've discounted rumors that he's been seen taking out people's trash, and directing traffic near Showplace Square....

## It's the Principal

Principal **Mark Alvarado** joined **Downtown High (Continuation) School (DHS)** at 693 Vermont Street this fall, and has already been won over by the Hill's unflinching activist spirit, calling the neighbors "stellar and dynamic." Alvarado, who was previously Buena Vista Alternative Elementary School's principal, has already reverse-wooed the neighbors by personally scooping-up teenage smokers on school property and putting them into stop-smoking programs. He hopes to build on Downtown High's interactive learning program, which consists of outdoor wilderness training, digital film, and environmental projects. Alvarado will be hosting a community coffee meet and greet on Friday November 9th at 10 a.m. at DHS.

## Project Projects

With a scanty 178 hits in the course of a month, and only 19 online signatures, 13 of which are anonymous, the **Remove the Potrero Hill Projects** website and accompanying petition hasn't been as rabble-raising a success as its creators might have hoped. The website, [www.removePHprojects.org](http://www.removePHprojects.org), tosses democratic discourse to the wind - "There is no time to waste with further academic debates about social and political issues" - and instead uses capital letters to make its point: "This is a matter of SAFETY/SAFETY for ourselves/and SAFETY for our families." Perhaps the lone photo of a 1970's Pontiac and vintage Buick, set against a rather pastoral shot of the pink-hued housing projects - New England meetinghouse meets antique car show - wasn't the best PR shot for a sensationalistic campaign.

## Hi-Ya!

One Potrero parent was given a financial and emotional karate chop by Naverrete's Black Belt Academy, located in allegedly higher-class Noe Valley. After enrolling her six-year-old in the school, at \$150 a month, she discovered a number of add-on costs, including a \$200 enrollment fee, photograph charges, and a \$50 testing assessment for each new belt. When she called to inquire about possible discounts, the Academy's owner not only declined, but chastised her for not paying the hidden fees sooner. Here in Potrero Hill Shorin-ji Ryu-style karate is offered for a nominal fee twice a week at **Jackson Park Recreation Center**. As another Potrero parent advised, good karate, or judo, instructors aren't hard to find, and there's no reason to put-up with a rude one.

## Little Boxes

Despite protests from various local newspapers, including the *View*, the **Department of Public Works** is insisting that all chains, wires, and other attachments be removed from newspaper racks, and bolts be used to secure the boxes to the sidewalk instead. Most boxes are attached in some fashion to something, as a way of protecting them against being kicked to the street, but high-level political officials apparently find the chains, and even slender wires, to be an eyesore. They aren't wrong, but the real eyesore is the boxes themselves, which are usually repeatedly tagged with unattractive graffiti. Such is the price of a freely available press. Low-cost, artistically-designed racks would be welcomed by publishers and the public alike. Perhaps this is a job for **Burning Man**, which was able to address constant arguments over whether or not bonfires should be allowed on Ocean Beach by providing a series of unique, mostly attractive, fire pits....

*Got something worth saying? We're all ears, or eyes, as the case may be: [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net).*

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# Bernal Heights Building Design Review Board Offers Model for Southeast San Francisco

By Lisa Tehrani

Residential development is a hot topic in Southeast San Francisco. The Planning Department hopes to rezone a large portion of the area as housing under the Eastern Neighborhoods Community Planning Project. The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association has grappled with a steady rise of monster homes, which can disrupt neighborhood character and block long-cherished views. And recent construction in Mission Bay and Potrero Hill's northern slope has prompted concern among residents about the soulless nature of new building design.

The City's design guidelines for residential construction are rarely enforced, and specific design requirements for the area's planned high-density developments have yet to be formulated. Given this situation, one nearby community, Bernal Heights, created its own way of policing new developments design: design review boards and special use districts. Bernal Heights' special use district, which was created in 1991 as a result of community efforts to curb the development of large homes, imposes general design specifications for new residential development in the neighborhood.

Well before the special use district was created, in 1978 a group called the Bernal Block Club conducted a study of Elsie Street in northwest Bernal Heights. The Club's main goals were to maintain the neighborhood's character and composition and promote compatible development. With the participation of more than 200 residents and architects, the group developed a set of guidelines for residential reconstruction and development.

The resulting Elsie Street Plan has since been applied beyond Elsie Street, and is now used by the Northwest Bernal Heights Design Review Board to evaluate projects for the neighborhood's entire northwest quadrant. The Board, which meets twice a month and consists of annually elected members, is charged with reviewing new construction and improvements to existing residential properties with an eye towards how well they blend in with surrounding buildings. Home owners and developers must submit their projects for Board approval before they receive a building permit as part of an open process in which neighbors are encouraged to provide input.

The Elsie Street Plan specifies the design of residential structures with regard to curb cuts, front setbacks and side yards, landscaping of front setbacks, street trees, building bulk and massing, roof lines, façade elements and exterior colors and materials. It gives examples of design elements that are deemed inappropriate and those considered acceptable. For example, the Elsie Street Plan requires entryways to be

"something special - a celebration - more than just a front door." Entryways are supposed to create a transition from the street, and special attention is supposed to be given to materials and design.

Not everyone is pleased with how the Elsie Street Plan has been applied. Home owners and architects have complained about the parking requirements and how reductions in a building's mass is determined. Likewise, applicants, particularly residents, are sometimes unhappy with the Review Board's recommendations. Still, working with the Review Board is easier and less expensive than requesting a discretionary review from the City, or, worse yet, taking a dispute to court.

The Review Board's recommendations are typically adopted by the Planning Department. According to Paul Stein, who chairs the Board, the Planning Department "appreciates having our input and takes the issues that we bring up very seriously." The Review Board handles roughly a dozen projects a year and issues letters of approval after design issues are vetted. "There aren't many projects that we review that don't get these letters. I would estimate that no more than three or four have not gotten letters in this decade," Stein explained.

Stein noted that if developers or property owners include the Review Board in the early stages of their planning process the evaluation need not hold up a project. But, he said, "If the owner or architect waits until the last minute before submitting plans to the City, it could hold things up for a few weeks, or longer, if there are a lot of difficult issues to hammer out."

Stein believes that the Review Board gives ordinary citizens a way to address their concerns about local construction in an informal way, and avoids the expense and bureaucracy associated with City processes. "It is confusing and intimidating to have to file Discretionary Reviews or go to hearings during the workday when you might have to wait for hours for your project to come on the agenda," he said.

Although residents don't get everything they want, most are pleased that there's a process that benefits the community. Architect Andre Rothblatt has worked on more than a half-dozen residential projects that have gone before the Review Board. He's had positive experiences, and feels that the Review Board serves as an important mediator for neighbors that may have concerns about construction projects. "It does not add conflict, instead it tries to resolve things. They give suggestions, but there is some good dialogue and they are open and flexible. It is obvious that you should do something that is contextual and complies with the Elsie Street Plan,"

he explained.

Joseph Smooke, Executive Director of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, agreed, "We think what they do is really important. Developers and architects often ask us the best approach for dealing with the Review Board. The criteria they work with is very clear and the process is transparent and in general I think the group is achieving the goals of the plan."

Potrero Hill resident and architect Kepa Askenasy would prefer to see design requirements codified in the Planning Code rather than establish a Potrero Hill review board, partially because her experience working in Bernal Heights was not positive. "As an architect, I found the Review Board to be obstructionist in terms of good design and lacking any pre-visualization skills, even with a model. One of the pitfalls of this sort of group is that you can get people with no design skills on the board," she said.

Rothblatt doesn't like the idea of creating a Potrero Hill review board either. He explains, "It is a slippery slope when you have design review boards try to dictate style. It is a balancing act because you want scrutiny, but you don't want it to be far-reaching." He noted that the

City's new pre-application meeting process forces project sponsors to meet with their neighbors before a plan is submitted. He thinks that that process can provide an effective means of working with the community to ensure outcomes with which everyone can live.

Still, like many residents Askenasy is not happy with how the Hill's northern slope and Showplace Square area are being developed. "I would start at the macro and look at the street space and focus on creating livable spaces," she said. "Things need to be at human scale so you have a sense of the domestic scale versus the commercial scale. New construction is so stripped of humanness and warmth. If things are well designed then people would embrace new architecture."

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# The Curbside Ethicist

**Q:** For the past several years I've had my car, a 1999 Mitsubishi Galant, serviced and repaired by a Potrero Hill mechanic. A friend who used to work at the shop originally recommended it to me. Recently my mechanic suggested I have a system flush, in which the car's engine is flushed-out and replaced with new fluids. She argued pretty strongly for it, saying it would extend my car's life. Though it was expensive it seemed like a good idea to me. After I had it done and paid for it, I asked my friend who used to work with the mechanic about this service, and he told me that he thought I'd been sold something I really didn't need. The shop has a reputation for doing low cost, quality work, but now I'm wondering if that's true. Should I talk to my mechanic about this? I don't know much about cars, and I don't want to name my friend who used to work there. I'm not sure what to do, but am disappointed and somewhat poorer as a result of this experience.

**A:** We all want our mechanics to be truthful; and I'm hoping yours was. You need to decide whether you prefer to patch-repair your car as-needed, or to invest in preventative measures. Your car mechanic probably believed that a system flush would extend your car's life, and maybe it will. Your friend, on the other hand, may have a more fix-it-and-get-back-on-the-road approach. To determine whether the mechanic sold you a service you didn't need, contact mechanics from other local shops, research car maintenance, post a question on an internet chat group on car repairs, or make a call to those annoying mechanics on national public radio. After you've done your homework talk to your mechanic about your concerns.

**Q:** In the wake of Ed Jew-gate, I've noticed that a number of City officials and nonprofit leaders that work on issues that impact southeast San Francisco, or claim to represent the community, don't live in the neighborhood. Is this a problem?

It's not a problem as long as there is transparency on the issue. Some positions require the holder to live within the boundaries of a city or neighborhood. In these cases, it would be unethical not to do so. Other positions may have an unstated social residency obligation, but it isn't contractually mandated. In general, however, unless a particular position requires that the holder live in the area being served, and particularly if you don't know the specific circumstances of their lives, people should be judged based on their commitment to their work rather than on where they live. Many individuals who serve our community – including firefighters, police officers, and teachers – can't afford to live here. In this respect the question to ask might be: what positive improvements are city officials and nonprofit leaders making to southeast San Francisco? If their records are less than stellar, it might be time to exercise your residency-based influence: vote, write a letter, get involved, run for office!

*The Curbside Ethicist specializes in solving ethical dilemmas. Readers are encouraged to seek guidance from their own religious or philosophical counselors to solve knotty problems, and are invited to send the View their questions, comments, and disagreements about this column: editor@potreroview.net.*

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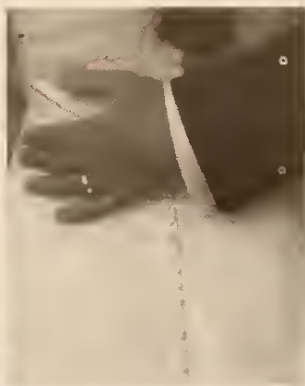
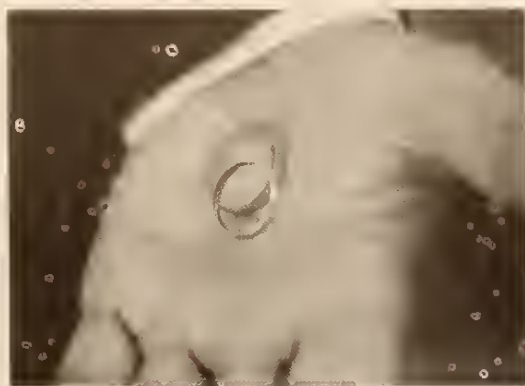
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# San Franciscans Calling 311 to Get the 411

By Lorraine Sanders

Since its launch last February, the City and County of San Francisco's 311 Call Center has made it easier for residents to reach city departments with questions, service requests and complaints. Even the stray compliment has been known to trickle in from time to time. The Call Center, which cost \$8.8 million to build, will soak-up another \$9.8 million in operating costs this year. It's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in 145 languages.

From any landline locals can dial 311 (or 415.701.2311 from outside the 415 area code) to obtain information and request services from government offices ranging from the county clerk to the police, court officials and the Taxi Commission. Calls to the Center have been steadily increasing, despite what Call Center Director Edward Reiskin describes as "pretty minimal" marketing efforts. As of last month the Center had received roughly 817,000 calls, the vast majority of which were information and service requests for Muni and the Department of Public Works (DPW). "It's as if the government increased the size of the pipe the requests can come through," Reiskin said.

Since February DPW has received 56,000 calls through the Center. More than half of the calls are street cleaning service requests, with graffiti abatement calls coming in a distant second. Between April and July, Muni received 15,500 service requests, 11,200 of which were complaints, almost all of which concerned the T-Third light rail.

The Call Center has made it easier for residents to get the information and help they need, and relieved city departments of customer service

duties. "When people call 311, and they want to plant a tree in front of their house, they get the application from 311. So we can focus on planting trees, not answering questions," said DPW's Christine Falvey. The Call Center started taking Muni and DPW calls in February; in June it began handling Taxi Commission service requests. Since August, residents have been able to dial 311 to reach the Department of Public Health's Office of Vital Records to track down birth and death certificates.

More Center improvements are planned. Though no definite timeline has been set, Reiskin expects callers to soon be able to use 311 for Recreation and Parks requests, and to notify the Department of Parking & Traffic of abandoned vehicles and damaged street signs. An online system that will allow residents to submit service requests is also in the works. "For any service that we're currently the front end for, you'd be able to do that online," Reiskin said. And the Center is planning to implement near-real-time data reporting, which will allow the public to view up-to-date data on the number and nature of calls the Center is receiving.

As residents learn that they can easily reach city departments, Reiskin wonders whether some agencies will end-up with more requests than they can handle.

"There's no question that [the Call Center] will probably strain resources, and it may make the case for where more resources are needed," Reiskin said. Too many requests may be an issue down the road, but at the moment the recipient of the lion's share of 311 calls says that hasn't been a problem. "Right now it's still manageable," said Muni's Falvey.

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## Potrero Hill Festival 07' Thank-You's

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House thanks the following individuals, organizations, neighbors, and merchants for their participation in the 2007 Potrero Hill Festival.

The entire Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Staff, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Board of Directors, San Francisco Arts Commission, Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses, Michael Rios, Cherry Elliott, SoulArts, Potrero Hill Boosters, The Potrero View, Prophet Soul and BRO featuring Leroy Jackson, Chris Martin, Starr King Open Space, Susanne Shields, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Dr. Daniel Lipman, Potrero Chiropractors, SF Community Power, San Francisco Dept. of Elections, The Culinary Academy, Renee Strong, Goat Hill Pizza, The Apollo Jazz Group, Potrero Hill Parents Association, Anchor Steam Brewing Co., Juicy Lucy's, Potrero Hill Archives, Potrero Hill Democratic Club, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program, Albert Johnson, Bob Hayes, Corinne Cadon, Jessica Pete, San Francisco Public Library Book Mobil, Neighbors for the "Nabe" and a very special THANK-YOU to Thinkers Café who sold delicious BBQ pulled Pork Sandwiches and donated all proceeds to the Potrero Hill Neighborhood Houses' Families United in Neighborhoods Program for youth. Rachael Lobb, Jeff Schimmel, Robert Dasalla, and the Knowers of Thinkers, Jay's Deli for donating pumpkins.

And thanks to everyone who came out to Celebrate on the Hill. See you next year!

(Photos by Bob Hayes)



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By David Matsuda

Greetings from my HN (host nation), Iraq, in the ITO (Iraqi Theater of Operations). As it's a war zone you're urged to BOLO (be on the look-out) for IDF (indirect fire) from mortars and rockets. If you're too close to the POI (point of impact) you may be WIA (wounded in action), or Allah forbid, KIA (killed in action).

As an anthropologist it's my job to speak with the LN (local nationals) about issues that may have PMES (political, military, economic and social) implications. Apart from avoiding gangs like the Shi'a MM (Mahdi Militia) or the Sunni AQAI (Al Qae'ida Associates in Iraq), who KMI (kidnap, murder and intimidate), most concerns revolve around SWEAT-M (sewer, water, energy, academics, trash, and medical care). My team is beginning operations OTW (outside the wire or off-base) in NAI (named areas of interest), close to Camp Taji. Most days my MOE (measure of effectiveness) is NSTR (nothing significant to report), but as I move from Camp Taji to a FOB (forward operating base) or a COP (combat outpost) and conduct IO (information operations), I should have more to report when I RTB (return to base). Hoo-ah (You get all that?)

MWBATC (Meanwhile Back at the Camp) we hustled ourselves and our gear out the back cargo ramp of the giant Chinook helicopter, through the down-draft of the rotors and onto the tarmac at Camp Taji. Our equipment was transferred to the cultural affairs and reconciliation shop, and we were assigned accommodations. My half a trailer-size room was trashed: the furniture was destroyed, soiled linen lay scattered about, and there was a bullet hole in the wall. I swept enough dust off the floor to build a sand castle.

I was finally getting comfortable when Sergeant Hawkeye and Lieutenant BJ Honeycutt, nicknames taken from the 1980s television show MASH, came a knockin at 11:45 p.m. Their room was also trashed, but even worse Hawkeye's ruck-sack had fallen off the Humvee somewhere between the helipad and our POD (position of dwellings). We gathered-up Lieutenant Colonel Trapper John (another MASH-derived pseudonym), split into teams of two, and began our search for the lost bag. Hampered by darkness, sore from bouncing along uneven terrain and confused by unfamiliar surroundings, we searched until I stumbled upon Hawkeye's ruck-sack at 2 a.m.. Mission accomplished.

Later that day I went for a run and a self-guided tour of the base. As I ran along the road nearest to the wall that separates the base from Baghdad a sergeant stopped his tank and patiently explained to me that there is no PT (personal training) on this through-way because of the risk of sniper fire and the occasional hand-grenade. Continuing on my morning sojourn I noticed that Army folks almost always travel in twos with their BB (battle buddy). There is no "I" in the Army, only "we." With the exception of civilians, who can choose whether or not to bear arms, everyone is required to carry their gun and a full clip of ammunition at all times. At chow there are guns everywhere; in the PX (post exchange), guns galore; and yes, guys and gals even bring their guns into the bathroom.

Some soldiers are confused by my ACU (army combat uniform); I wear the same uniform as every other

soldier, but the sternum and shoulder patches that designate me a civilian are unusual. We all get a good laugh when a confused young private unnecessarily salutes me.

Throughout the Muslim world Ramadan is being celebrated; a 28-day long holy month that marks when the Prophet Muhammad fell-out with the Jews of Medina, stopped celebrating Yom Kippur, began observing Ramadan, and started praying towards Mecca rather than Jerusalem. This lunar-based cycle also commemorates Laylat al Qadar, the night when God, through the Archangel Gabriel, began revealing the Qur'an to Muhammad.

Not a Muslim myself, but understanding that "when in Iraq, do as the Iraqis do," I eat at 5 a.m.

wait until 7:15 p.m. to dine again, and daily read a specified *jezee* (pronounced jew-zee) of the Qur'an. This before-sunrise to after-sunset fast symbolizes the unrelenting hunger suffered by the young Muhammad, who was poor and had to do without, as well as a way for contemporary Muslims to internalize what constant hunger is like and by extension, why it's important to give alms to the unfortunate.

Until next month, may peace be upon us all.

*Long-time Hill resident Dave Matsuda, Ph.D. is an anthropologist who's on leave from university teaching to help the U.S. Army with reconciliation efforts in Iraq. Email him at druncledave@comcast.net if you have questions, want to involve your school in a project, or to send a care package to a young soldier.*

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David Matsuda at work at Camp Taji, Iraq.



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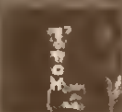
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By Matt Isaacs

Pat Cadam, the owner of Pat's Garage on 26th Street, makes being "clean and green" look easy, even for the greasy, grimy work of an auto mechanic. The garage was among the first businesses to be "green" certified by the City in 2003 – voluntarily conforming to more stringent environmental standards than legally required – just months after the program's inception. And since Cadam moved to Potrero Hill from South of Market a little over a year ago – rising rents and continuous construction made life there untenable – he's been able to lower his ecological footprint even further.

The shop relies on compact fluorescent lighting, which last four times longer than incandescent bulbs, and Cadam is miserly with the light switch. "I just turn out the lights. We get terrific southern sun. There's no reason to keep them on," he said. Uniforms are washed on site with environmentally-friendly detergents, rather than being out-sourced to a commercial uniform company, which may rely on harsh chemicals. Automobile parts are cleaned in a hot water bath, rather than using toxic solvents. And the shop offers a free oil and coolant collection service to the community; nearby residents can change their vehicle's fluids and leave them at the garage for disposal.

"I realized early on that I was in a fairly dirty industry," Cadam said. "Ultimately, it would be great if everyone walked all the time,

but that's not going to happen. So I started thinking: what can I do to improve the situation?"

In addition to maintaining as clean a shop as possible, Cadam has started a separate enterprise helping businesses, including Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Google, convert their hybrid vehicles – Toyota Priuses and Ford Escapes – to "plug-in" technology, which enables the cars to travel more than a hundred miles on a gallon of gasoline. The conversions replace the hybrid vehicle's standard nickel metal hydride battery with a more powerful lithium ion battery. On shorter trips a plug-in car might never run its combustion engine. Cadam only offers this service, "Green Gears," which costs upwards of \$12,500 per vehicle, to businesses employing fleets of cars, but plans to offer it to the public when batteries become more affordable, perhaps as soon as next year. "I'm lucky to already have a business that's relatively successful," Cadam said. "So I can experiment with this other stuff without worrying about the money."

Cadam's progressive approach goes beyond environmental sensitivity. He pays his employees a better-than-average wage, and provides subsidized health care insurance and retirement. The garage closes daily from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch. "That sometimes

throws customers," he said. "I tell 'em, 'You take a lunch break, why shouldn't we?'"

Cadam offers free car repair classes for women, and has plans for

an "eco-driving" class to educate motorists about how to squeeze every last mile out of their car. "When you come in here, the first thing you can expect is to get your car fixed," Cadam says. "But it's a whole lot more than that. You're helping the earth. You're finding community."



Pat Cadam in front of his garage

Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski

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REAL ESTATE



Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski  
Clowning around at last month's Potrero Hill Festival.



Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski  
District Attorney Kamala Harris makes a point at a recent Potrero Hill Democratic Club meeting.





Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski

The Dance Troupe known as Fou Fou Ha (Elizabeth Castenada, Melissa Castenada, Ben Turner, Kristin Neidlinger, and Maya Culbertson-Lane) at last month's 8th annual Decompression Street Faire, which was held on Indiana Street.



Photo by David Alter

*Sunset magazine's* latest Idea House is almost finished, and is already turning heads. The building, which is located at the corner of 25th and Alabama streets, is one of the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified residential remodeled homes in the country. The property is owned by Meridian Builders and was designed by John Lum architecture. The three-story remodeled two-unit home includes a spa and exercise space which opens onto a patio, a dramatic glass and steel staircase, and an urban roof garden above the garage. There are solar panels on the roof and a prototype of a new windmill that will generate two-thirds of the building's power needs.



For the past five years 30-year Potrero Hill resident Milton Newman has been swimming to raise funds for the Women's Cancer Resource Center in Oakland. He's captured above after having completed a one mile swim as part of the Center's latest fundraising event held at Mills College last month.

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# An Unexpected Altar: the "Good" Jack Davis

By Philip De Andrade

This year's SomArts Cultural Center's Day of the Dead installation will include an unexpected altar: in late-September Jack Davis, the Center's director, died.

Many people knew Jack as an essential contributor to San Francisco's cultural scene. But that wasn't the Jack Davis I knew. My Jack Davis was a neighbor, mentor, friend and my captain at the Mission Creek Harbor Association (MCHA), the community of boaters now sandwiched in between South-of-Market high-rises and Mission Bay development. Whenever I've told a Jack Davis story, and I've told many, I've had to preface my comments with the disclaimer: "not that Jack Davis," or "the 'good' Jack Davis," to fend-off the potentially raunchier images that some held in their head of him (you'll have to do your own homework to find out about them). He was my political consultant; he never saw me without giving me a recommendation for what the Democrat Party ought to do to win an election or, more profoundly, to change our democracy for the better.

Jack was my mentor at MCHA; he was the ruling president for many of my years of residence. He conducted our monthly governing town hall meetings with respect, efficiency and effectiveness. He forged the kind of consensus in which each contributing member believed that the final product belonged to them. He could always discern the essential, and intuitively lead to the right course. No important project at the Creek was undertaken without his vision.

He taught me how to deal with bureaucracy, to go with the flow. According to Jack, the only way to fight the immovable object is to make them right and then lead them in your direction. I've learned that the world of permits and inspectors is best negotiated with a Jack-like attitude: make them understand that the way you want to do something is exactly what they insist you do, never fighting, always agreeing and then doing what you want.

Three years ago, when Sean's, Jasper's and my home sank into the

creek, Jack presided over the raising and salvage from a chair he set-up on shore. Like a captain on his bridge, he sat for hours, considering angles and depths, and how the current changed over time. He offered, rejected, revised and reviewed strategies for bringing the boat up from the bottom, and devised the successful one. The night she was raised, his daughter Sarah and her husband Shawn bought over a vase of flowers, a splash of beauty in the midst of all the destruction. On Sunday Jack organized the cleanup and salvage of what was left of our belongings, an effort which my depression would never have allowed me to do. It was on that day he taught me how to teach: first you do something yourself; then you figure out how to do it best; finally, you show the way to someone else.

Once I was in the market for a small public address system and turned to Jack for advice. Two days later I received an e-mail from him listing web addresses and his commentaries about each of three appropriate possibilities. Two days after that he drove me to Hayward to review the unit he thought was best. Jack was a master of advice; in the end I actually believed I'd made the decision about which system to buy.

Architect, designer, builder or consultant on many of the homes floating in Mission Creek, Jack moved into his last project just a few months ago. With his family, he built a boat which would house three generations on three levels. Like so much of his life, his home was a work in progress, life was in the work. In an era where the young virtually flee from the old, Jack, his son Arthur, his daughter Sarah, her husband Shawn, and their daughter Olivia created a traditional family with a very modern flare.

Jack was a classical renaissance man with his feet firmly planted in the future. He was an unsung hero of his many worlds. He will always be for me the "Good" Jack Davis. At his altar, to paraphrase Malherbe, in his honor will the angels stand.

A memorial for Jack Davis will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on November 18 at SomArts, 934 Brannan Street.

# Long-Time Neighborhood Newspaper Publisher Dies



David Ish, former publisher of the *Marina Times* and *New Fillmore News*, pictured above enjoying his retirement in Thailand with his girlfriend, passed away last month.



This photograph, taken in 1991 for the *Business Times*, shows David Ish (lower row, center) wearing his famous Nauru Vest. Pictured with him are Victor Miller (counterclockwise from top), Maggie McCall, Mary Radcliff, Phyllis Sherman, Chris Rivers, Joan Dalgren, Vicki, and Paul K.

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# New Kids

By Melissa Glorieux

Tristan Schnetzler turned seven-years-old on October 30. Happy birthday, Tristan!

On November 7, Olivia Moss turns six-years-old, while her brother, Adam, will turn exactly four and one-half.

Jillian Kuehnelt turns two on November 14. Happy birthday from your mama and papa!

Happy birthday to Zachary Bradford. He turns three-years-old on November 26.

Josy Hicks Jabtons, age 12, has a solo as "bloody child" with the San Francisco Opera's Macbeth. There are six performances in November and one in December.

Proud of a friend or a family member's accomplishment? Let us know: [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net)



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## Change is on the way!

Learn about plans to improve Muni service

Over the past year, the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) has been looking at ways to make Muni more efficient and attractive to riders.

Please attend an upcoming community meeting to learn about the TEP's key findings and ideas and help us shape the City's plans to improve Muni service. We will present the same information at each meeting. In early 2008, we will host another series of meetings to present final recommendations.

### Transit Effectiveness Project Community Meetings

#### Excelsior District

**Saturday, October 20**  
**10:00 am to 12:30 pm**  
 Monroe Elementary School  
 260 Madrid St. at Excelsior Ave.  
 The nearest MUNI bus lines are 14, 29, 49 and 52.

#### Inner Sunset

**Monday, October 22**  
**6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**  
 County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers)  
 near entrance to SF Botanical Garden  
 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way  
 The nearest MUNI lines are M, J, and 71.

#### Mission District

**Saturday, October 20**  
**3:00 pm to 5:30 pm**  
 St. Peter's Catholic Church  
 1200 Florida St. at 24th St.  
 The nearest MUNI bus lines are 9, 27 and 43.

#### Civic Center

**Tuesday, October 23**  
**6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**  
 Bill Graham Civic Auditorium  
 39 Grove St. at Polk St.  
 The nearest BART and MUNI station is Civic Center. The nearest MUNI bus lines are 9, 19, 21 and 49.

For more information, visit our web site: [www.sftap.com](http://www.sftap.com), e-mail us at [info@sftap.com](mailto:info@sftap.com), or call (415) 701-4599. Spanish and Chinese speakers may call (415) 226-1313.



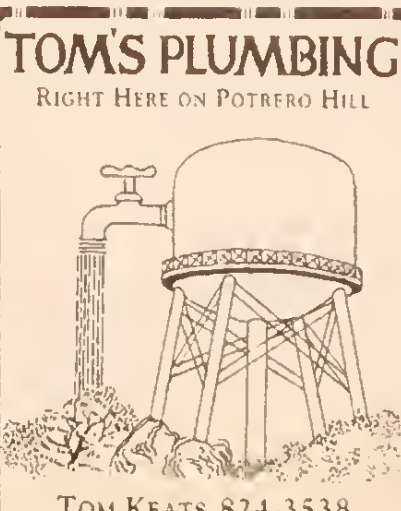
**Wheelchair Accessible** Please call (415) 226-1313 at least 72 hours before the meeting if you need any special accommodations, such as American Sign Language interpreters or materials in alternate formats.



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– Janet J.





# arts

# & ENTERTAINMENT

November 2007

## November 1-5

**Art: *The Second (After) Life Cafe***  
Artist/Curator/DJ/Videographer George Aguilar shows multimedia projections of art actions happening on the metaverse Second Life, a growing online 3D social network with roughly one million users. Tuesday to Friday, 2 to 7 p.m., Saturday, noon to 5 p.m., SomArts Main Gallery, 934 Brannan Street. Information: 552.2131, extension 7.

## November 2

### Film: *King Corn*

*King Corn* is a feature documentary about two friends, one acre of corn, and the subsidized crop that drives our fast-food nation. In the film Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, best friends from college on the east coast, move to the heartland to learn where their food comes from. With the help of friendly neighbors, genetically modified seeds, and powerful herbicides, they plant and grow a bumper crop of America's most-productive, most-subsidized grain on one acre of Iowa soil. But when they try to follow their pile of corn into the food system, what they find raises troubling questions about how we eat, and how we farm. Red Vic Movie House, Haight Street. Information: <http://www.redvicmoviehouse.com/>.

## November 2-3

**Theater: *Sins Invalid***  
Twelve provocative artists from California to New York strip taboos off sexuality and disability in *Sins Invalid*, a groundbreaking evening of erotic spoken word, performance and video. Texas artist Maria Palacios performs her acclaimed spoken word piece about making love to a woman in a wheelchair. 8 p.m., Brava Theater, 2789 24th Street. Information: 510.649.8438; [www.thedancingtree.org](http://www.thedancingtree.org).

## November 2-3 & 9-10

**Theater: *The Pandora Experiment***  
Experience intimate theatrical magic by award-winning magician and illusionist Christian Cagigal, who dares you to think inside the box. Cagigal won "Best of Fringe" in 2004 with his *Magic @ the Fringe*, and enjoyed sold-out performances at both the 2003 and 2004 San Francisco Fringe Festivals. Tickets \$12 to \$20. 8:30 p.m., EXIT Café, 156 Eddy Street. Information: 673-3847; [www.theexit.org](http://www.theexit.org).

## November 3

**Environment: Rally to Stop Global Warming**  
Support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by joining this rally in your funkiest and fly blue threads. Participants are encouraged to wear bright blue clothing and blue body paint, and to carry posters and banners supporting a healthy planet. Noon to 3 p.m., 355 McAllister Street.

## November 5

**Awards Luncheon: Silver Spur Awards**  
San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association hosts their annual awards luncheon, spotlighting notable contributors to the community. This

year's honorees include Paula R. Collins, CEO of WDG Ventures, Inc.; Dr. Marco Guterrez, one of KRON's first Latino reporters; Jon Osaki, executive director of the Japanese Community Youth Council; and Walter H. Shorenstein, founder of Shorenstein Company LLC. \$150 regular tickets. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Moscone Center North, between Third and Fourth streets. Information: 781-8726; [www.spur.org](http://www.spur.org).

### Community: *Interim Controls*

Support Supervisor Tom Ammiano's proposed ordinance to establish interim zoning controls for the Eastern Neighborhoods Planning Area, which would deny building permits for 18 months or until area plans are adopted. 1 p.m., Room 263, City Hall.

### Theater: *Sonny's Blues*

Word for Word presents a staged reading of *Sonny's Blues* by James Baldwin. In Baldwin's story, set in 1950's Harlem, two brothers – the elder a schoolteacher and family man; the younger, Sonny, a jazz musician with a troubled past – navigate a tense and complicated relationship against the jazzy rhythmic background of city life. Suggested \$12 donation. 7 p.m., Lorraine Hansberry Theater, 620 Sutter Street. Information: 437.6775.

## November 7-25

### Theater: *Stardust and Empty Wagons*

*Stardust and Empty Wagons*: Stories of the Katrina Diaspora is a multi-disciplinary theatrical tapestry written by Ellen Gavin from the direct testimony of Katrina survivors living in the Bay Area. The Hot 8, featured in Spike Lee's 2006 documentary *When the Levee's Broke*, will perform live music during the run's first week. Tickets \$28 to \$30. Wednesday to Saturday shows at 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th Street at York.

## November 8-28

### Art: "Evolution"

Five Bay Area artists respond to a world in crises with imagery of war and peace, messengers and ancestors, using paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, and installations. Tuesday to Friday, 2 to 7 p.m., Saturday, noon to 5 p.m., SomArts Main Gallery, 934 Brannan Street. Information: 552.2131, extension 7.

## November 9

### Community: *Downtown High Meet-and-Greet*

New principal Mark Alvarado from Downtown High (Continuation) School hosts a coffee meet-and-greet with neighbors interested in learning about the school's email watch and other school programs effecting the surrounding community. 10 a.m., Downtown High School, 693 Vermont Street. Information: 695.5860.

**CD Release Party: The Curt Yagi Band**  
Potrero Hill resident Curt Yagi's CD Release will feature a classy evening of live music, beautiful art and good

people. \$10 advance; \$15 at the door. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Jelly's Café, 295 Terry Francois Boulevard, Pier 50. Information: 606.9727; [www.curtyagi.com](http://www.curtyagi.com).

## November 10

### Fundraiser: *Neighbors of San Francisco General Hospital*

Join a benefit dinner and fundraising auction to support the Neighbors of SFGH. The hospital is about to publish their helipad environmental impact report and funds are needed to hire safety and noise experts to respond effectively. Get an update on SFGH helipad plans, and enjoy delicious Nepalese and Indian food catered by Taste of the Himalayas, including beer, wine, and soft drinks and live music. Tickets \$75 in advance; \$90 at the door. 7 to 10 p.m., Nabe, 953 De Haro Street. Information: [www.stopthehelipad.com](http://www.stopthehelipad.com).

## November 13

### Community: *Sewer System Improvement Plan*

Comment on City plans to improve our sewer system, including proposed alternatives and potential costs. This workshop will be conducted as part of a San Francisco Public Utility Commission formal meeting, and begin with a half-hour open house, followed by a presentation and interactive discussion. 5:30 to 8 p.m., Southeast Community Facility, Alex L. Pitcher, Jr. Community Room, 1800 Oakdale Avenue. Information: [www.sfs sewers.org](http://www.sfs sewers.org); 554.3289.

## November 15

### Live Music: *Tastemakers*

Come listen to the Tastemakers with The Father J. O'Brien. The Tastemakers are Abel Mouton, Michael Mullen and Matt Sieling, guys who've been in a zillion bands playing one another's original pop songs, rock songs and ballads. Three singer/songwriters, gathered together under one umbrella, improvising on guitars, keyboards, and other doo-dads and whiz-bangers. 7:30 p.m., Farley's, 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545; [www.farleyscoffee.com](http://www.farleyscoffee.com).

## November 15-December 16

### Theater: *Staircase*

This hysterical comedy was one of the first gay plays to tackle Broadway and the big screen. The marriage of Charlie and Harry is threatened by the ominous presence of the police, even though it's 1966 and they've been together forever. Tickets \$15 to \$35, Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street. Information: 861.5079.

## November 16

### Symphony: *Junkestra*

Oboes and violins will make way for serving trays and copper pipes when musicians perform local composer Nathaniel Stookey's "Junkestra," an original symphony in three movements under the baton of San Francisco Symphony Resident Conductor Benjamin Schwartz. The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra will play the percussion section; proceeds will

benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Visitation Valley. Tickets \$10 to \$15. 8 p.m., Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Information: [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com).

## November 20-March 3

### Floral Display: *Color, a Winter Carnivale*

"Color: A Winter Carnivale" is a dazzling show of colorful petals and foliage set in a turn-of-the-century world's fair atmosphere. Hundreds of plants will be arranged in color clusters of red, blue, purple, orange, yellow, green and silver/white, creating a living rainbow. Children will love the Wheel of Flora-tune, a casino-quality big spin that sends them on a hunt for color clues. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Conservatory of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. Information: 666.7001; [www.conservatoryofflowers.org](http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org).

## November 22

### Thanksgiving: *Farley's*

Continuing their annual tradition, all tips will be donated to the San Francisco Food Bank, a Potrero Hill nonprofit that feeds the hungry. Farley's will be open from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.. Farley's, 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545; [www.farleyscoffee.com](http://www.farleyscoffee.com).

## November 27

### Photography: *Christopher Irion*

Last chance to view Christopher Irion's photos from the 17th Annual Farley's Pet Fest and Parade. All photos from the Halloween event will be taken down and given away free to those who participated. 7 p.m., Farley's, 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545; [www.farleyscoffee.com](http://www.farleyscoffee.com).

## November 30

### Comedy: *Third and a half Annual Café con Comedy*

A wide array of Bay Area comedians will be performing at the third and a half Annual Café con Comedy, a night of comedy at Dolores Park Café in the Mission. The line-up features a diverse mix of comics, ranging in age from 18 to 74; African American, Asian American, Jewish, Caucasian American, gay/lesbian, straight comics. \$7 to \$10. 7:30 p.m., Dolores Park Café, 501 Dolores Street. Information: 522.3737; [www.doloresparkcafe.com](http://www.doloresparkcafe.com).

WAKING THE BULL ... BY WILL BULLAS



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## Hill Resident Curt Yagi Releases Debut Album

By Kerry Fleisher

After 10 years toiling for the corporate world as a high-technology consultant, Potrero Hill resident Curt Yagi followed his instincts and swapped his private sector gig for a full-time position in the nonprofit world. This turning point in his life seeps through his first album *What's Come Over Me*, an earnest and heartfelt debut to be released in mid-November.



"I never had the confidence to write my own music, let alone sing in public," said Yagi, who'd always taken a backseat to fellow musicians until he picked up a guitar a few years ago. He's since shed his inhibitions and gone solo, singing lead vocals in *The Curt Yagi Band*. His outfit

has played at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, Herbst Theater, and Red Devil Lounge, and will next be taking the stage at Jelly's on Pier 50 for his CD release party.

In *What's Come Over Me* Yagi cranks-out wistful pop tunes that feature his breezy voice and coming-of-age lyrics. He sets his upbeat, feel-good guitar chords to a brassy horn section on his track "Can't Get My Way," and croons over somber piano riffs in the softer feature track "What's Come Over Me."

Nine years ago, Yagi suffered a knee injury that kept him on crutches, prompting him to write a five-year plan to phase-out of the corporate world in order to "find meaning in my life." He soon began volunteering every Saturday at Real Options For Kids (R.O.C.K.), a nonprofit that provides in-and after-school enrichment programs and outdoor adventures for at-risk youth.

When the previous executive director announced his resignation, Yagi didn't balk at the opportunity to manage the organization full-time. "It was a no-brainer," said Yagi, even though his salary took a huge slash. "In the back of my mind, I always thought the best part of my week was Saturday."

After accepting his new position, Yagi moved from Cow Hollow to 18th Street near Arkansas Street, which helped facilitate his commute to R.O.C.K., which is located in the Excelsior. During the transition,

Yagi added guitar to his bass and piano skills, and started playing open mikes around the Bay Area in spite of his stage fright. "My kids at R.O.C.K. on the other hand, are fearless," said Yagi. "Being in public doesn't seem to frighten them."

*What's Come Over Me* is a testament to Yagi's dedication to R.O.C.K. and the turning point it prompted in his life, musically and professionally. In one song Yagi sings, "Every day is the same as the

one I saw before/ eyes don't change separation of rich and poor/ can't accept helpless feeling inside them." From the corporate world to youth development, Yagi is now proud to be centerstage, inspiring others to discover their true calling.

Join Yagi for his release party on November 9th at Jelly's, 295 Terry Francois Boulevard, Pier 50, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Snippets of his songs are available at [www.curtyagi.com](http://www.curtyagi.com).

### Potrero Hill Democratic Club

## ENDORSEMENTS

VOTE! Tuesday, November 6th - Local Ballot Measures

#### Charter Amendments

- B YES.** Limiting Hold-Over Service on Boards & Commissions
- C YES.** Public Hearings on Ballot Measures
- D YES.** Renewing Library Preservation Fund
- F YES.** Retirement Benefits for Airport Police Officers

#### Ordinances

- G YES.** Golden Gate Park Stables Matching Fund
- H NO.** Regulating Parking Spaces
- I YES.** Establishing Small Business Assistance Center

#### Declaration of Policy

- K YES.** Restricting Advertising on Street Furniture

(Measures A, E, J - no position)

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## Publisher's View

*continued from front page*

planning loophole; in 2002 the City denied a request to convert the remaining square footage to office space. But earlier this year a proposal to change the entire building to office space, with a waiver of the additional parking spaces required under City ordinances, seemed to be on its way to quick approval by the Planning Department.

A number of land use activists within and outside Potrero Hill alerted Kelly to the impending approval, who took their concerns to the Planning Department and to Supervisor Maxwell. At a Planning Department meeting held in May, and attended by 650 Townsend's attorney, Harry O'Brien; Macris; Kelly; and Boss, Macris indicated that the City was likely to consent to the project. According to Kelly, he protested that all project authorizations in the Eastern Neighborhoods should wait until ongoing comprehensive planning efforts had been completed, and a system to assess developer fees to pay for the public improvements prompted by growth established. Boss added that eliminating the requirement for 400 parking spaces – which could cost Townsend, LLC upwards of \$6 million – would add to the already congested traffic situation in the area.

In response to Kelly's and Boss' protests, O'Brien offered to make an additional contribution towards public benefits in the Showplace Square area, with the proviso that a significant portion of the funds be dedicated towards transit planning; that the agreement be between the neighborhood and the property owners, rather than with the Planning Department; and that it be kept confidential. And they wanted a quick decision. Macris concurred that any agreement on additional funds would have to be between the community and the developer; the Planning Department had no capacity to handle the monies.

Kelly gathered advice on the Townsend proposal from the Boosters and Dogpatch Neighborhood Association's executive committees, and participants in Plan Potrero Hill – a group dedicated to comprehensive planning in the eastern neighborhoods – among others. According to Kelly, "the unanimous consensus in every group I met with was 'get as much as you can.' No one said the offer should be rejected, except me."

The Townsend Street owner's request to convert roughly 270,000 square feet of business service space and a bit more than 100,000 square feet of exhibition space, to office space, with a smattering of retail; and for a waiver of the requirement to provide 402 additional parking spaces was approved at the June 7th San Francisco Planning Commission meeting. Kelly and Boss, speaking on behalf of "the community groups represented here today" – including the Potrero Boosters – praised the project sponsor for responding to neighborhood concerns "very creatively," and urged the Commission to complete comprehensive planning

efforts in the area.

### Part Two

Like most neighborhood activists, neither Kelly nor Boss are paid for their work on behalf of the community. Kelly is employed by a large cultural organization during the day, manages the Thick House – which is located on 18th Street, and is, according to SFGate, home to San Francisco's leading multiracial theater company – and serves as the Boosters' volunteer president. Boss, who is a Booster and Dogpatch neighborhood association officer, and who may be the most active activist in southeast San Francisco, attending multiple community meetings every week, represents developers – including the owners of Dagget Triangle, located at the corners of 16th, 7th, Pennsylvania and Dagget streets – in negotiations with the City.

Because of their positions with the Boosters and Dogpatch neighborhood associations, as well as their general involvement in community issues, Kelly and Boss are frequently called upon by Supervisor Maxwell's office, the Planning Department, and others for consultations on community issues. Boss was one of the first District 10 residents to brief Supervisor Maxwell's latest staff person, John Lau, on key community land use issues, providing Lau with a customized tour of the neighborhood.

According to Kelly, however, the agreement with Townsend, LLC was not made on behalf of the Boosters, but rather emerged through informal negotiations conducted by volunteer-citizens under a tight deadline imposed by the developer and backed by the City. "The Boosters didn't negotiate any agreement [with 650 Townsend, LLC], and the creation of the fund wasn't a Boosters activity. Joe [Boss] assisted as a private citizen," developing a terms letter with the Showplace Square property owner. "Neighborhood associations, even large and popular ones like the Boosters, cannot realistically claim to represent the entire neighborhood," said Kelly.

Because the negotiations proceeded so rapidly, Kelly didn't bring the proposal to the Booster's general meetings, which are held once a month. As a result, most Boosters, let alone community residents, were unaware that an agreement, whether it be viewed positively or negatively, had been made on behalf of the neighborhood. "I don't like secret deals," said Dick Millet, who serves as the Boosters Vice President. "And I don't like the Boosters associated with this type of thing. I didn't have a clue about the full extent of this deal, and I'm an officer in the association."

### Part Three

Throughout the summer Boss worked with 650 Townsend LLC on the size and characteristics of their donation, identified the San Francisco Foundation as the appropriate fiscal sponsor for the funds, and consulted with some Potrero Hill residents on how the monies should be spent. "Nobody else was going to do it," said Boss, of the intensive pro bono

work he undertook to implement the agreement. The negotiations, and their outcome, were kept secret, or as secret as such things can be kept in a small community. "That's what the developer wanted," said Boss, who remains concerned that 650 Townsend, LLC could still pull-out of the agreement. Townsend LLC "didn't want to be sucked into a public auction over their contribution," confirmed Kelly.

According to both Kelly and Boss, the developer insisted that \$600,000 of the \$1.5 million fund – which has been termed the Eastern Neighborhood Public Benefits Trust Fund – be dedicated towards transit planning in the area. The remaining monies are to be disbursed as guided by Trust Fund advisors, who had to be approved by the building owner, according to Boss and Kelly. Boss, Keith Goldstein, President of the Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses (PHAMB), and Susan Eslick, President of the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association were selected to serve as advisors, apparently by Boss in consultation with 650 Townsend LLC.

At PHAMB's October general meeting Goldstein announced the overall dimensions of the agreement, and named a number of nonprofits as recipients of Trust Fund monies. These included \$200,000 to the Potrero Residents Education Fund (PREFund), which is working to develop a preschool located at Daniel Webster Elementary School; \$200,000 to GreenTrust, a recently organized nonprofit dedicated to creating open space along the Central Waterfront, and who's board chair, Janet Carpinelli, is married to Boss; \$150,000 to the Thick House; and an undetermined amount to the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. The remaining monies – a few hundred thousand dollars – will be distributed through a yet to be defined proposal process.

### Epilogue

"Who exactly are these people to negotiate this kind of deal on behalf of the neighborhood," asked one Potrero Hill resident, upon hearing of the agreement from Boss last month. "And while most of these nonprofits provide good services to the neighborhood, giving more than one-third of the funds to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to study transit is like flushing it down the toilet."

"It's tantamount to blackmail," said Michael Yarne, director of development at Martin Building Company, which has pledged \$100,000 towards GreenTrust once the company obtains its permit for a Third Street development project.

Boss "was tasked with something both thankless and difficult, given the Planning Department's mandate of pushing the project forward with or without a public benefits

contribution," said Kelly. "Seven years into a community-based planning process and 10 months after presenting a draft plan to the community, the Planning Department still has no clear public benefits program in mind that actually supports its area plan. That's what looks bad here, not a couple of private citizens doing their best to do right by the neighborhood."

Almost everyone interviewed for this article expressed round support for the projects selected by the Trust Fund. But many have deep reservations about the process by which the agreement was developed and the grants made. "I was troubled by the transaction, which is why I raised it at the Merchant's meeting... there should be a better process for these types of agreements in the future," said Goldstein. Others were more pointed in their criticism. "The proof of the problem is in the outcome," said Mark Trautwein, a KQED-Radio producer. "A couple of nonprofits that were friends with or family of the negotiator received a healthy slice of the funds. Who will ever know who didn't get money that should have?"

When asked about the agreement several PREFund members were careful about how they responded, noting that they were cautioned to keep quiet, and mindful that a cause they support had been singled out as a recipient of a significant amount of funds. Other residents refused to talk on record, for fear that if they publicly criticized the agreement it would harm their relationship with Supervisor Maxwell and other powerful community members. And still others had nothing to say because the entire story was news to them.

As Potrero Hill faces an avalanche of development, and the potential for a concomitant amount of public benefits money, it's the wrong time to keep quiet about the way agreements are made. In the absence of healthy and extensive debate about important public issues we risk not knowing how best to proceed with complex problems, neglecting important ones, and sowing distrust among neighbors. Which is the outcome developers would like: a divided and squabbling community, unable to stand-up to the large economic forces coming its way.

It's past time for the City to finish its comprehensive plan for southeast San Francisco, and to establish a rational method for assessing and disbursing the fees necessary for new developments to pay for the public services they prompt. Without such a plan the community will continue to be placed in the excruciatingly difficult position of being forced to salvage some community benefits from a process that currently guarantees none.

# Happy Thanksgiving!



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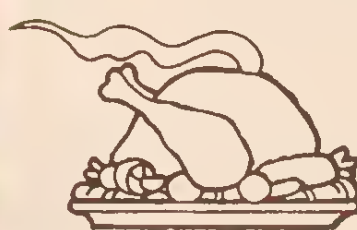
(from left) Kim Goussev, Zach Walczak, Tim Lawe, Josefina Campos, Samantha, Zuvella, Jesus Hernandez, Manny Miro, and "Napo" Martinez



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## Helicopter

*continued from front page*

co-pilot to verify that the helicopter simulated the agreed-upon flight paths, which were selected based upon easterly and westerly wind patterns.

During each simulated flight the helicopter slowed down for several knots when descending to 140 feet—the landing pad's proposed height—and hovered for five seconds, in a maneuver designed to simulate helicopter landing and take-off. At the request of working group members, Langlois also descended to 10 feet and hovered 15 additional seconds. Typically, helicopters slowdown when approaching a landing site, hovering no more than two to three seconds before landing and idling their motor. Some working group members opposed the extended test flight hovering, since hovering requires more engine power, and thus produces noise levels that are arguably louder than a real landing.

In a last minute revision the helicopter also hovered over Pier 64 on 16th street after completing the first of its three preordained flight paths. That flight was intended to test the noise associated with a possible shared helipad that would serve both San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) and UCSF Mission Bay under the San Francisco Port's jurisdiction.

UCSF plans to give the test flight's sound signatures to Harris Miller Miller & Hanson (HMMH), a noise consulting firm, which will measure the noise data against Integrated Noise Model estimates, which provides a baseline sound environment. Sound monitors were installed at six representative locations in Mission Bay, Potrero Hill, and South-of-Market, with approximately ten sound monitors installed to measure the existing noise characteristics over a week period. Working group members and UCSF staff are debating who has rights to the sound data; many volunteers who collected their own data want to get copies of the "official" information, while UCSF staff is concerned with the legal ramifications of releasing their data.

While HMMH's noise data analysis will be released as part of the helipad's EIR, neighbors watching the flight test from 16th and Third streets based their immediate reactions on gut feelings and comparisons to other intrusive noises. "It's a lot louder than I expected," said Jennifer Marcucci, who lives on Kansas Street between 22nd and 23rd streets. "It's way louder than the news helicopters," said Hampshire Street resident Karen Cliffe. A business representative from The Gladstone Institute, located at 1650 Owens Street, said that the test helicopter noise seemed comparable to the Caltrain passing under Interstate 280.

Still, many residents who were

unaware of the test flight didn't notice that it had occurred. Employees and shoppers lingering around Farley's Café couldn't recall hearing a louder-than-average helicopter flying nearby. Two joggers contently chatted at Pennsylvania and 20th streets until someone pointed out the helicopter was overhead, to which one jogger remarked, "Oh, that is quite loud."

Unofficial handheld sound meters at 16th and Third streets registered noise levels at 140 feet—the height of the proposed helipad—at 86 decibels using "A-weighting", which measures mid-range frequencies, and 104 decibels using "C-weighting", which measures low-range frequencies. "That's louder than my vacuum at three feet away," said Potrero Hill resident Rebecca Sawyer, who has inventoried sound decibels from household items. The humming of a refrigerator is approximately 40 decibels, conversational speech approximately 60 decibels, and an accelerating motorcycle at six feet approximately 80 decibels. "No one's sleeping through 80 decibels," said Sawyer. "My alarm clock is just 58 decibels."

"It was loudest when it was level with the buildings because it seemed to ricochet off buildings," said De Haro Street resident Peter Rudolphi, adding "it seemed loudest going west." In San Francisco, with its bumpy terrain and irregular wind patterns, noise generated several meters in either direction can alter sound patterns dramatically. Cliffe called a friend who was in a building near Interstate 280 to notify her that the helicopter was overhead, only to realize the helicopter was actually still over the bay.

Several residents staked-out positions that were an equal distance from the proposed UCSF landing site as their homes are from SFGH, so that they could measure the potential noise from SFGH's proposed helipad. If approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, SFGH's helipad would be located less than a mile from the proposed UCSF site. Unlike UCSF public relations, which notified community members, business developers and government committees of their test flight by email and ad campaigns, SFGH generated much less media attention leading up to their test flight more than two years ago, which many residents missed.

Working group members have already started to float ways to monitor the helipad if it's ultimately approved by the Board of Supervisors. These include suggestions that any agreement be revocable should flights be flown outside path restrictions; that flight logs, listing the number of flights flown, paths taken, origin, destination and age of patients, be regularly posted; and that UCSF examine use of NOTAR helicopters, which have no tail rotors and produce less noise, but may have lower performance at high altitudes.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch, Acting Branch Manager

It looks like we'll be closing sometime after Thanksgiving.

The Potrero Branch Library Project went out to bid in September, with proposals due in late-October. Stop by the branch to find out the outcome. Also last month a community meeting was held to present the final architectural drawings for the remodeled library, as well as proposed furniture, fixtures and equipment, with a generally positive response. Meeting notes are available at the branch.

Check-out the library's Fall selection and schedule of events, including author readings and book discussions, in the One City One Book brochure, which can be found at any branch, or visit [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org) for more information.

No special programs are scheduled for this month due to the library's imminent closure. The regularly scheduled program, "Story-time for Children," will continue at the usual time: Thursdays, November 1, 8, 15, 29 at 10:30 a.m., children age birth to five.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

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## Crosswalk Heroes

continued from front page

On this Friday afternoon it's raining hard. Sonya, who gave only her first name is strapped head to toe in her reflective armor while torrential rains plummet down around her. Her eyes dart back and forth through the rain, from Folsom to Cesar Chavez streets, to Folsom and back again, as she prepares for each miniature exodus across the great plains of this particularly hectic San Francisco intersection.

"There's many car accidents, or almost accidents. It's still dangerous with parents walking their kids," said Sonya, who decided to become a crossing guard after the previous guard, with whom she was friendly, decided to leave the post just as Sonya's son was entering Leonard R. Flynn.

With a year's experience as a crossing guard, Sonya has developed a few theories about how to improve street safety for children. She believes that a daily patrol by a motorcycle cop would reduce the traffic dangers associated with her particular street corner. She also thinks that all middle schools should have crossing guards.

According to Sonya, San Franciscans mistakenly believe that rainy days are more dangerous than temperate conditions. She pauses in her explanation to borrow an umbrella from a passing mother, jams the umbrella into an increasingly growing puddle, which prompts the

sewer hole to emit a huge slurping sound and begin to suction-up the water. "Normal conditions," she continued, "are just as bad, because cars aren't as cautious. It's always dangerous for the students no matter what."

And dangerous for Sonya as well, who claims not a day goes by when she doesn't get caught in the middle of the hectic intersection, with seconds to sprint to safety. Alexis, a crossing guard field trainer stationed at Potrero Avenue and 25th Street, around the corner from Buena Vista Alternative Elementary, explains that crossing guards must undergo extensive training sessions three times a year. She cannot recall a single case of a crossing guard being injured on the job in her eight years with the department.

Alexis became a crossing guard after seeing a newspaper posting for the job, and has steadily advanced in the department. She began her career at Cleveland Elementary School in the Excelsior neighborhood, and was switched to Buena Vista Alternative Elementary when, in 2003, four-year-old Elizabeth Dominguez died when a truck collided with a Mitsubishi and veered onto the Potrero Avenue sidewalk. In response to the tragedy the department increased the number of crossing guards on duty at high-risk corners.

As a field trainer, Alexis ensures that crossing guards are well-versed in their craft. "I train them in the streets. I show them the proper way to face outward, how to look for

oncoming traffic, to make eye contact with the people in the vehicles, to be the first one to step off the curb to the street, and keep the children behind them."

The intersections staffed by crossing guards are not chosen for their proximity to schools alone, but as a result of a wide range of factors. City traffic engineers observe heavily-traveled corners to survey how many students, senior citizens, and disabled pedestrians cross the street at peak times throughout the day.

There's a high retention rate amongst crossing guards, said Alexis, who takes pride in knowing her guards show up twice daily during school days without fail, unless

they're sick or there's a death in the family. "They get to know the children by name, they get to know the parents by name, they get to know the principal, the school staff," she said. "All the children that cross the street look forward to the crossing guards."

Sonya hopes to never miss a school day, especially since "other parents may not do it as well" as she does. Being a crossing guard is not so much a job as a responsibility, she said. Alexis agrees: she waits an extra 30 minutes after the official end of her shift to accompany a child whose parents work during the day, demonstrating that affection between crossing guards and students is a two-way street.

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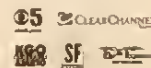
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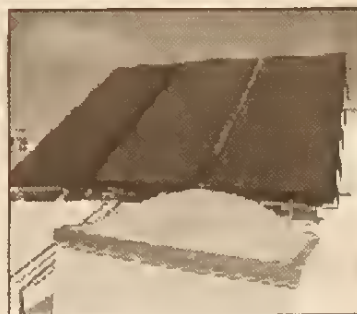


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## GETTING INVOLVED



**Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **December 11**, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

**Potrero Boosters** meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: **November 27**, 7 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB)** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz) or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **November 13**, 10 a.m.

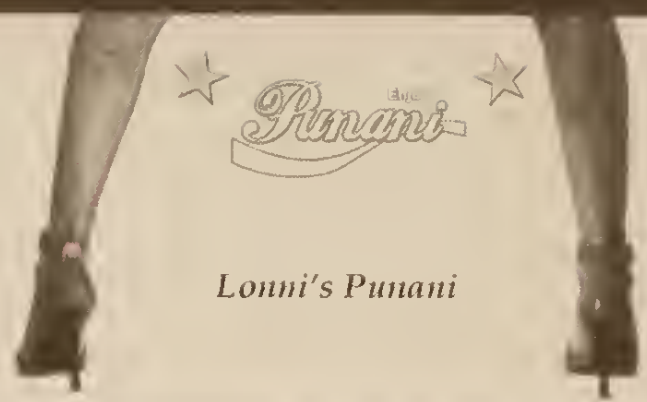
**Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting** is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **November 6**, 6 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Democratic Club** meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, [www.PHDemClub.org](http://www.PHDemClub.org). There will be no meeting in November, since it falls on election day. PLEASE VOTE. Next Meeting: **December 4**.

**Starr King Openspace Board of Directors** meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. **Volunteer for the Park** work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 819.4900. Next meeting: **November 20**. Next Volunteer Day: **November 17**.

**Potrero Hill Garden Club** usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.6740 for details.

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## Community Activities

SENIORS (60+) DON'T EAT LUNCH ALONE. Join us for daily lunch and add to your social life. Mon-Fri, hot nutritious meals--your first time with us you get a free lunch! Bingo, cards, birthday celebrations, special events, and other activities. For more information, call Dolores Maghari at 415.826.8080. PH Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St.

MORNING WALKERS IN POTRERO HILL. Meeting at 6:00 a.m. in front of Jay's Deli (20th and Connecticut). For information: In August, call Ruth - 738-0420. In September, call Marina - 378-8002.

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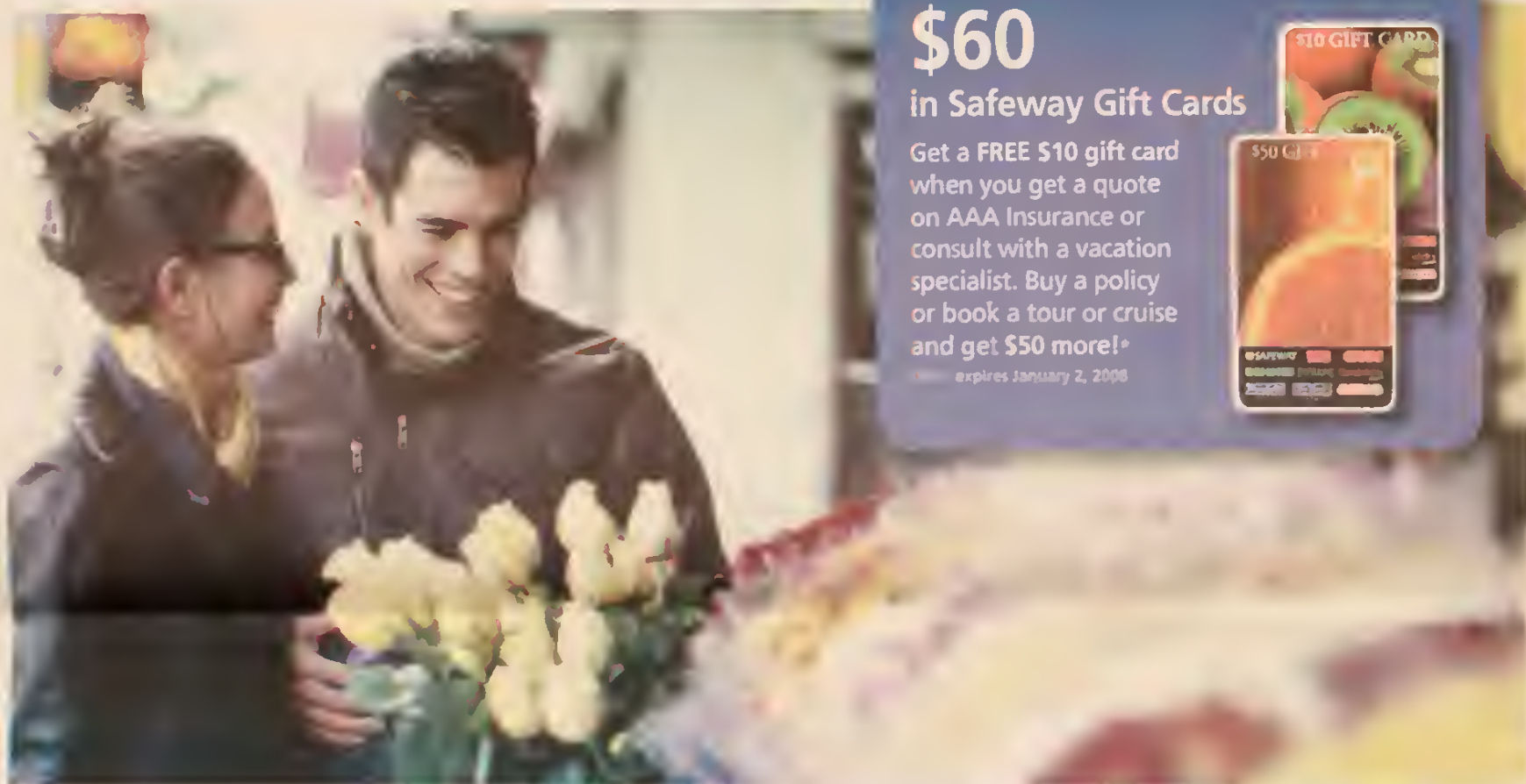
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